

DOLIR REVIEW

October 2001

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ES Employees Donate Over \$1,000 to Red Cross

By Lynne Reinkemeyer, Division of Employment Security Collections Unit

While driving to work the morning of September 13, 2001, two days after the Attack on America, I was listening to a local radio station. They were talking about an individual who had called in and commented that if every American would donate at least \$1 to the American Red Cross it would be a tremendous help during this crisis. I thought to myself for a moment, and realized this really would be a wonderful thing to do. When I got to work, I mentioned this to my supervisor and asked her what she thought about sending an e-mail to all employees in Employer Contributions. She thought this was a good idea.

At 8:20 a.m. I sent an e-mail to all Employer Contribution employees to see if they were interested in donating at least \$1. The response was outstanding. By the end of the day I had collected an estimated total of \$485.

The donations didn't stop there — other units under the Division; the Jefferson City Phone Center and Benefits called to see if they could collect for the cause also. I told them that would be great. On Friday, September 14, 2001 I also asked the division's UI Programs and Contribution Field sections if they would be interested in collecting for the cause. By the end of the day on Friday, the estimated total had climbed to \$880. By Monday the estimated total had climbed to \$1,203.50. ***By Tuesday, September 18, 2001, the total amount of donations collected for the American Red Cross was \$1,223.50!***

The donations from all sections kept trickling in during the four-day donation period. This really amazed me. In the beginning I was thinking if we could collect \$200 to \$300 this

would really be an easy way to help the United States of America after such a sad crisis as what we faced on the morning of September 11, 2001.

I would like to thank everyone who donated to the cause; your response was overwhelming!

Call Centers Also Meet the Challenge with Donations

Employment Security's Regional Call Centers have also worked to collect donations for the American Red Cross.

- The Kansas City Regional Call Center collected \$224.
- The St. Louis Regional Call Center collected over \$240.

Thanks to everyone in the Call Centers who helped those less fortunate during the crisis.

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JACKIE WOOD

Title: *Legislative Coordinator*

*DOLIR Director's Office
Legislative Affairs Unit*

Location: *Jefferson City, MO*

Employee Profile

Q *What do you consider the most important thing your program/division does for Missouri citizens?*

A Legislative Affairs is responsible for assisting all divisions in the Department in tracking issues before the Missouri General Assembly and the United States Congress that are relevant to the programs and services it provides to the citizens of Missouri.

Q *How does what you personally do in your job help or affect Missouri citizens?*

A Hopefully, the issues tracked by Legislative Affairs that are enacted into law will help the department provide better service to the citizens of the state.

Q *What part of what you do gives you the most satisfaction/pride/feeling of accomplishment?*

A I feel the greatest satisfaction is when you can assist in the passage of legislation that provides better service or additional service to the citizens of the state who need our help the most.

September 11th Fund Added to Charitable Campaign

As a result of the horrific tragedies of September 11, the Missouri State Employees' Charitable Campaign has added the United Way's **September 11th** fund to the list of organizations that employees' may contribute to. The September 11th fund benefits those affected in the New York, Washington D.C., and surrounding areas. **All** monies contributed through the campaign will go directly to the fund. None of the contributions will support administrative costs. The fund number is 8102. You may also go to the MSECC website for more information at **www.msecc.org**

Labor Commission Gets New Chair



Gov. Bob Holden appointed Renee T. Slusher of Columbia chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Commission. She was sworn in October 1.

Slusher, 34, holds bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She was previously an attorney with Roger G. Brown and Associates in Jefferson City, where she worked since 1992. She is experienced at both the trial and appellate levels in the areas of labor, tort litigation, workers' compensation and domestic relations. She also served on the Manufactured Housing Industry Advisory Committee from 1998 to 2000, and is a current board member of the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys and Mid-Missouri Legal Services.



Staying Safe & Sound

Often it is easy for us to take our safety for granted. Recently, we have learned all too well that we should always be prepared in case of an emergency.

So, I wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone of a few things we all should know to help protect ourselves at work.

- Know building evacuation routes. Maps showing evacuation routes are posted in all office sections. Know where to go once you exit the building.
- Know your Group Safety Monitor by name and by sight. In case of an emergency, follow this person's instructions.

- Know your designated "safe area" in the event of a tornado. Each office section has a designated safe area away from windows in the interior part of the building.

- Know what to do in an earthquake. Move away from windows and take cover under heavy furniture or in a doorway.

- Know how to handle threatening phone calls and bomb threats. The Department has set guidelines for handling these situations, and a checklist of what to do can be found in the front of your DOLIR Telephone Directory.

You can also find a lot of good information on these and other safety and security issues in the Department's Administration Manual, which is on the Intranet at <http://services.dolir.state.mo.us/manuals/doliradmin>.

I urge each of you to take some time to review this information. Let's do our best to stay safe and sound.

Information Systems Offers New User Help Online

The Department's Information Systems section has completed a new User Self Help section on the Intranet site. DOLIR Employees can access User Self Help at <http://www.dolir.state.mo.us/infosystems/selfhelpmenu.html> and get quick and easy tips on how to solve problems with printers, monitors, e-mail, passwords and more.

To use this new feature, go to Information Systems, then to Help Desk and User Self Help.

October Cultural Diversity Activities

October is...

National Disability Employment Awareness Month
National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Activities

- During the week of October 15 -19 a video called, "The Ten Commandments of Communication with People with Disabilities" will be played continuously in both the Employment Security and DOLIR buildings in Jefferson City. All employees are invited to view it when schedules allow.

- A representative of the Department of Health Bureau of Cancer Control's Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Project will speak Wednesday, October 17 at 11:30 a.m. in the DOLIR Building and Tuesday, October 23 at 11:30 a.m. in the Employment Security Building.

Check *Morning News* on the Intranet for more information on upcoming Cultural Diversity Program activities, or call Tracy Ezell at (573) 751-3928.

Employment Security Employee Proud Mom to Two Russian Babies



Colleen Janson with her daughter Larisa and son Nikolai during a recent visit to her office at the Division of Employment Security in Jefferson City.

Colleen Janson is back to work at the Division of Employment Security in Jefferson City. She is also the proud mom of two beautiful children from Russia, a three-year-old son, Nikolai and a 14-month-old daughter, Larisa.

On July 9, 2000, Colleen, a contributions technician in the Employer Contributions section, and her husband, Andrei Kuznetsov, became the proud adoptive parents of Nikolai and Larisa. The adoption was a

complicated process that began in February of 2000.

It was a long, trying ordeal with a lot of paperwork for Colleen and Andrei. "It took a lot of time and was really frustrating, but it was well worth it," says Colleen. The couple was fortunate enough to find a mediator named Valentina to help them speed things up. Valentina knew several contacts and was very knowledgeable of the necessary paperwork. Andrei was able to visit Russia in February 2001 and bring back pictures of the children.

According to Colleen, Nikolai has already learned a lot of English, but will also be keeping his native language of Russian. She says that Nikolai converses with her in English and with his father in Russian.

Charitable Campaign Kickoff Party

Employees enjoy cookies and ice cream while making donations at this year's Missouri State Employees' Charitable

Campaign Kickoff Celebrations in Jefferson City.



Quote of the Month

It's not who you are that holds you back.

It's who you think you're not.

Caring Communities Helps Children Deal with September 11 Tragedies

Many people are wondering how they can help the nation heal following the September 11 terrorist attacks on our country. It may be time to look at our number one resource, our children.

Helping children cope with these tragedies in a way that helps them maintain their mental and emotional health long term may be the best way any of us can help.

Dana Carroll, early childhood coordinator with the Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Inc. in Springfield, MO provided information about helping our children at the recent Caring Communities partnership meeting.

"It is hard to get our brain and heart around this tragedy, and it is especially tough on children," Carroll said.

Sandi Lillard, coordinator of Parenting Services for ParentLink, offers the following tips for handling the situation.

- Children cannot escape knowing about this tragedy. They may be scared and confused. Adults need to role model that it is okay to talk about and share feelings. Encourage children to ask questions and share their feelings. They will better cope with this event if they feel allowed to discuss it.
- While it is important to encourage children to be open with their concerns and feelings, it is also important to respect that they may want a break from talking about it.
- Make sure children know you are approachable. Let them know that they can come to you with any questions or talk to you about their feelings.
- Help children find creative outlets. Drawing, dancing, music and playing with puppets and dolls are all ways children can express themselves.
- Children need reassurance. Be honest, but reassuring. Explain to children what you are doing to keep them safe. Ask them what would help them to feel safe. Most importantly, remind them of how much you love them. Let them know you will always love them.

For more information on ParentLink, you can contact them at (800) 552-8522 or visit them on the web at <http://outreach.missouri.edu/parentlink>. ParentLink is administered through 4-H Youth Development Programs, University of Missouri Extension.

Neet McCowen is Caring Communities Coordinator for the Department. To reach her, please call (573) 751-3817.

DUNN'S Safety Tips - TRICK-OR-TREAT Safety

Halloween is a cherished tradition, but the excitement of the night can cause children to forget to be careful. There is no real "trick" to making Halloween a real treat for the entire family. The major dangers are not from witches or spirits but from falls and pedestrian/car crashes.

Here are some tips for grown-ups to help make Trick-or-Treating safe and enjoyable for everyone.

Motorists

- Watch for children darting out from between parked cars.

Parents

- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing.

- Make sure an adult or older responsible youth will supervise the outing for children under age 12.
- Plan and discuss the route Trick-or-Treaters intend to follow. Know the names of older children or companions.

- Instruct your children to travel only in familiar areas and along an established route.
- Teach your children to stop only at houses or apartment buildings that are well lit and **never** to enter a stranger's home.
- Establish a return time.

Source: National Safety Council.

Steve Dunn is the Department's Safety Coordinator. He is also Director of the Mine and Cave Safety and Health Consultation Program for the Division of Labor Standards.

Division of Labor Standards Honors Employees

By Jim Walker,
Division of Labor Standards

Eight employees were presented Outstanding Achievement Awards during the Division of Labor Standards' summer staff retreat. To be eligible for an award, employees must first receive a written nomination from a co-worker. The division director then makes the final selections. The eight employees honored at the August meeting included:

January – Tom Colvin, Mine Safety

February – Larry Miller and
Jim Walker, Mine Safety

March – Jim Boeckman,
DLS Assistant Director

April – Glen Alderman,
Wage & Hour

May – Donna Kaye Scheulen,
On-Site Safety and
Health Consultation

June – Brian Elmore, Wage & Hour

July – Bill Turner, Child Labor

These employees, along with others who may be selected in coming months, will be eligible for the Outstanding Achiever of the Year award. The Outstanding Achiever is selected by secret ballot vote of all Labor Standards employees at the winter staff retreat.

Employees receiving special recognition for volunteer services included:

Bonnie Loveall – Flower Fund

Leah Ann Hilgert – Social Director
and Charitable Campaign

Mica Baldwin – Blood Drives

Jim Walker – DOLIR Editorial
Board

Kurt Klinghammer – DOLIR
Employee of the
Month Committee

Dub Inlow & Troy Hart – Division
of Labor Standards Internet
Task Force

Brenda Hentges, Larry Miller,
Daniel Start – DOLIR Employee
Suggestion Program

Steve Dunn – DOLIR Safety
Director

Jeff Edmondson & Donna Kaye
Scheulen – Labor Standards
Safety Representatives

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Anna Mae Towner



In 1988, Anna Mae Towner retired from the Kansas City office of the Division of Employment Security after almost 25 years of service. She worked in the local office as an Employment Security Technician.

But for Towner, retirement meant her work had just begun. Today she is the director of the East Area Community Center, located on the

east side of urban Kansas City, in a neighborhood plagued by economic downturn, crime and poverty.

Her ongoing mission to help people in her community has led her to become a self-professed “beggar,” as she spends a considerable amount of her time soliciting funds to keep the Center running, and to help area residents afford items like school supplies and other essentials. She can be found at the Center every day, visiting with those who stop in for assistance. The Center provides activities to help keep kids off the street, and helps families with food

and clothing needs. It also has four low rent apartments for low-income people who need a place to stay.

In a recent interview featured in *Explore KC*, Towner says she is just trying to bring out the best in people. In the process, she shows people the best of herself.

NOTE:

Information for this edition of *Where Are They Now* provided by Glen Strang, an unemployment tax auditor in the Kansas City downtown office of the Division of Employment Security.

Where Are They Now? highlights DOLIR retirees and their experiences since retiring. If you would like to be featured in **Where Are They Now?**

Contact us at: **Where Are They Now?**
Office of Public Affairs • PO Box 1958 • Jefferson City, MO 65102-1958
Or e-mail: jilindemann@dolir.state.mo.us

Lifestyles

Retirees from September 2001

Division of Employment Security

Roger Harris, Unemployment Insurance Auditor II, Contributions Field

Lifestyles

New Employees from September 2001

Division of Labor Standards

Paul Frerking, Occupational Safety and Health Consultant II

Jesse Sheppeck, Occupational Safety and Health Consultant I

Timothy Wilson, Occupational Safety and Health Consultant I

Division of Employment Security

Brenda Acklie, Contributions Technician I, Employer Contributions

Tracey Allen, Clerk III, Employer Contributions

Jennifer Flaughner, Claims Examiner, Benefits

April Hollis, Contributions Technician I, Employer Contributions

Labor and Industrial Relations Commission

Dan Chatfield, Chief Counsel

Kristina Isidro, Clerk Stenographer III

Renee Slusher, Chairman

Missouri Commission on Human Rights

Deborah Sarber, Clerk Typist II

Lifestyles

Promotions from September 2001

Administration

Doris Holiday, Computer Operations Supervisor II, Information Systems

Constance Kirchner, Computer Operations Supervisor I, Information Systems

Ralph Rivera, Computer Information Technologist III, Information Systems

Robin Russell, Computer Information Technologist I, Information Systems

Division of Workers' Compensation

Anecca Luss, Clerk Typist III

Margaret Roberts, Court Reporter II

Tambra Robinson, Clerk Typist III

Division of Employment Security

Pamela Harris, Contributions Supervisor IV, Contributions Field

Charles Case is August Employee of the Month



Charles "Fred" Case, office service coordinator with Facilities Management in Jefferson City is the Department's August 2001 Employee of the Month.

Recently, Case demonstrated extraordinary effort

and compassion for others as a volunteer during the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF) for Students with Disabilities, sponsored by the Governor's Council on Disability.

Originally he volunteered to be a dorm parent, making sure the participating students stayed in their rooms after lights out during the weeklong event. But when a personal care attendant for one of the students cancelled, Case stepped in and provided an exemplary level of personal care and caring, even though he had never done anything like it before.

According to a colleague at the Forum, Case did so much to help the students that "it would take a ream of paper to give all the details," adding that he was a "true lifesaver" for the event.

Nominations, Please

If you have a co-worker who deserves special recognition for a job well done, you can nominate that person for Department Employee of the Month. Nomination forms (Form MODOL-4434) are available on the Department's Intranet site, or from each office. Nomination forms are due by the 15th of each month in order to select a recipient for the previous month.

Recent Employee of the Month winners are:

April 2001 – Wiley Woods, Office Manager for the Division of Workers' Compensation's St. Louis office

May 2001 – Janelle Preston, Contributions Deputy with the Division of Employment Security in Jefferson City

June 2001 – Barbara Barlish, Claims Supervisor III in the Division of Employment Security's Jefferson City Regional Claims Center

July 2001 – Ida Ballew, Claims Technician II in the Division of Employment Security's Kansas City Regional Claims Center

For additional information regarding the Department Employee of the Month program, contact Tammy Cavender at (573) 522-2546.

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